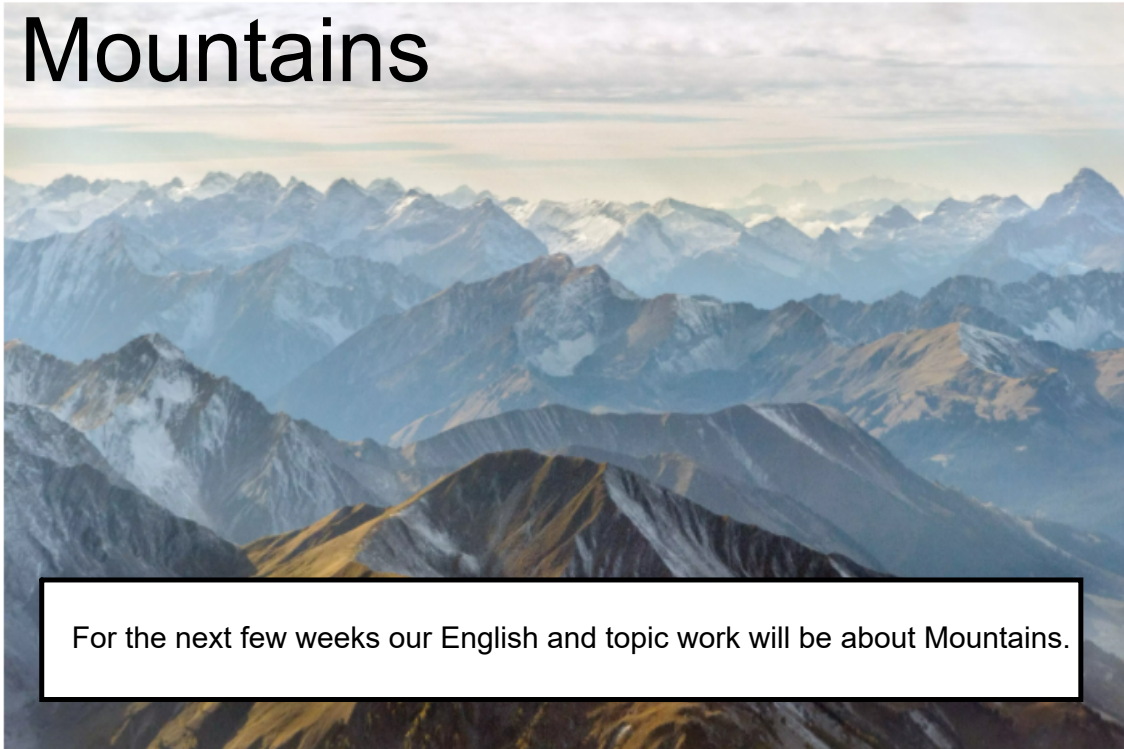


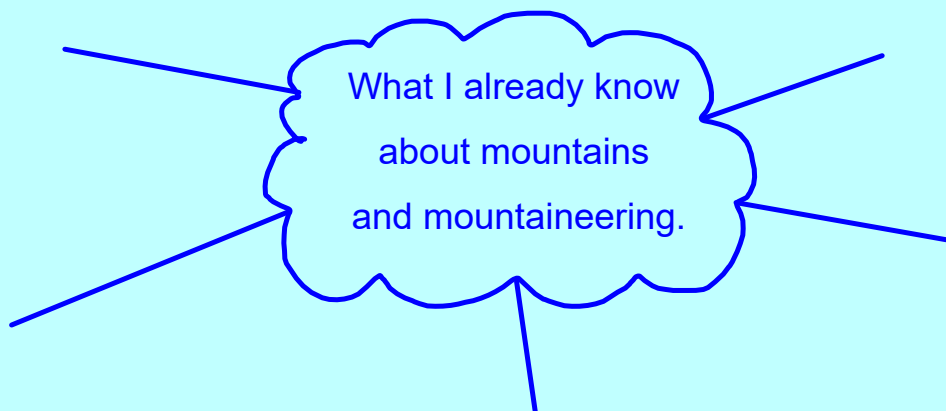
# Mountains



For the next few weeks our English and topic work will be about Mountains.

As with all the work we do, everyone of you begins a lesson already with knowledge and information about the topic. Before we begin our work linked to mountains, we would like to find out what you already know.

**TASK 1: complete a mind map of what you know about mountains.**



DAY 1: Monday 25th January

LO: To retrieve and record information from non-fiction texts

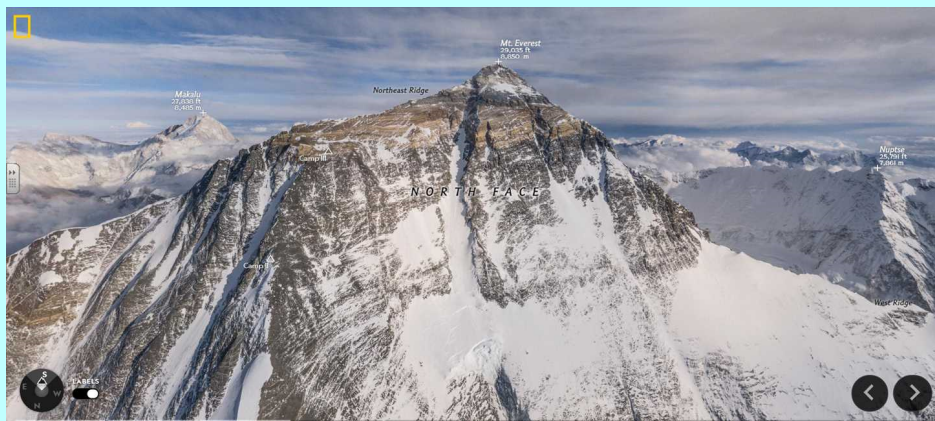
SUCCESS CRITERIA

I can share  
information I  
already know

I can record and  
retrieve  
information from  
non-fiction texts

I can provide  
reasoned  
justifications for my  
views.

To help set the scene, take a look at this amazing website, giving you a 360° view of Mount Everest and surrounding mountains.



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2020/07/see-what-the-summit-of-mount-everest-looks-like-in-360-degrees-feature>

(The website link is on the Year 6 home learning page)

This is Sir Edmund Hillary, one of the UK's most famous mountaineers.



**TASK:** read the biography of Sir Edmund Hillary to find out more about his amazing life.

## Sir Edmund Hillary Biography



Mount Everest  
Source: NASA

- **Occupation:** Explorer and Mountain Climber
- **Born:** July 20, 1919 in Auckland, New Zealand
- **Died:** January 11, 2008 in Auckland, New Zealand
- **Best known for:** First to climb Mount Everest

### **Biography:**

Sir Edmund Hillary (1919 - 2008) was an explorer and [mountain](#) climber. Together with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, he was the first to climb to the summit of Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world.

### **Where did Edmund Hillary grow up?**

Edmund Hillary was born in Auckland, [New Zealand](#) on July 20, 1919. He became interested in climbing when he was 16 years old and climbed his first major mountain when he was 20. He continued his love for exploring and climbing [mountains](#) in the coming years, scaling many mountains.

### **The Everest Expedition**

In 1953 the British had received approval to make an attempt at scaling Mount Everest. The government of Nepal would only allow one expedition a year, so this was a big deal. The leader of the expedition, John Hunt, asked Hillary to join in the climb.



Edmund Hillary by William McTigue

When climbing a mountain as high as Mount Everest, a large group of people are needed. There were over 400 members of the expedition. They climbed the mountain in stages, moving to a higher camp every few weeks and then getting acclimated to the high altitude. At each stage fewer and fewer people would continue to climb.

Once they got to the final camp, there were two teams chosen to climb the last stage to the summit. One team was Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. The other team was Tom Bourdillon and Charles Evans. The team of Bourdillon and Evans tried first, but they failed to make it to the top. They got within 300 feet, but had to turn back.

#### Final Stage

Finally, on May 28, 1953, Hillary and Tenzing got their chance to try for the summit. They ran into some difficulties, including a 40 foot rock wall that is today called 'Hillary's Step', but they made it to the top. They were the first to climb to the top of the world! Because the air was so thin, they only stayed at the top for a few minutes before returning to tell the world of their achievement.

#### Exploration After Everest

Although Edmund Hillary is mostly famous for being the first to the top of Mount Everest, he continued to climb other mountains and to be a world explorer. He climbed many other peaks in the Himalayas over the next several years.

In 1958 Hillary took an expedition to the South Pole. His group was the third to ever reach the South Pole over land and the first to do it using motor vehicles.



Tractors used by Hillary to get to the South Pole  
Photo by Cliff Dickey

#### Fun Facts about Sir Edmund Hillary

- Hikers are often called "trampers" in New Zealand.
- Sir Edmund was 6 feet 5 inches tall.
- He was a navigator with the New Zealand Royal Air Force during [WWII](#).
- He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II after reaching the top of Everest. This is why you often see him referred to as "Sir".
- Mount Everest is 29,029 feet high. It is named after a British general who surveyed [India](#) named Sir George Everest. The local name for the mountain is Chomolungma, which means 'Mother Goddess of the Sky'.
- Edmund wrote several books about his adventures including High Adventure, No Latitude for Error, and The Crossing of Antarctica.

## TASK: complete the RIC task to retrieve information from the text.

1) In what country was Edmund Hillary born?

- Spain
- New Zealand
- France
- Italy
- England

2) When was Edmund Hillary born?

- 1645
- 1730
- 1873
- 1919
- 1958

3) What was Edmund Hillary most known for?

- First to circumnavigate the globe
- First man on the moon
- First to the top of Mount Everest
- Exploring the South Pacific
- First to visit the South Pole

4) What country organized the first expedition to reach the top of Mount Everest?

- Britain
- France
- United States
- China
- Japan


5) Who also was the first to reach the top of Mount Everest along with Edmund Hillary?

- John Hunt
- Charles Evans
- Roald Amundsen
- Tenzing Norgay
- No one, Hillary was alone at the summit

6) How many people took part in the climb up Mount Everest?

- 4
- 12
- 50
- 100
- Over 400

Use the biography text to answer these retrieval questions.



7) Why did Edmund Hillary only stay at the top of Mount Everest for a few minutes?

- Because it was so cold
- Because the air was so thin
- Because it wasn't very interesting
- Because he was hungry
- Because he wanted to get back home

8) Edmund Hillary led the first expedition to reach what location using motor vehicles?

- North Pole
- Top of Mount Everest
- South Pole
- Source of the Nile River
- Amazon rainforest

9) Who knighted Edmund Hillary after he reached the top of Mount Everest?

- Queen Victoria
- King Edward IV
- Queen Elizabeth II
- Queen Isabella of Spain
- Queen Elizabeth I

10) What is 'Hillary's Step'?

- The last step Edmund Hillary took to reach the summit of Mount Everest
- A ladder that Edmund Hillary left behind on Everest
- A memorial step built at the base of Mount Everest
- A forty foot rock wall near the top of Mount Everest
- A type of square dance



TASK: now having read about Sir Hillary, and by also conducting your own research, make a list of the attributes and skills you think would make someone the perfect candidate to join an expedition to the summit of Everest.

What characteristics  
do you need to have  
to be a mountaineer?



**TASK:** Read this text, which gives you more detail about the expedition. Can you take any ideas to add to your list of mountaineering skills and attributes.

### 1953 Everest expedition

The route to Everest was closed by Chinese-controlled Tibet, and Nepal allowed only one expedition per year. A Swiss expedition (in which Tenzing took part) had attempted to reach the summit in 1952, but was turned back from the summit by bad weather and exhaustion 800 feet (240 m) below the summit. During a 1952 trip in the Alps, Hillary discovered that he and his friend George Lowe had been invited by the Joint Himalayan Committee for the approved British 1953 attempt and immediately accepted.<sup>[18]</sup>

Shipton was named as leader but was replaced by Hunt. Hillary considered pulling out, but both Hunt and Shipton talked him into remaining.

Hillary was intending to climb with Lowe, but Hunt named two teams for the assault: Tom Bourdillon and Charles Evans; and Hillary and Tenzing. Hillary, therefore, made a concerted effort to forge a working friendship with Tenzing.<sup>[18]</sup>

The Hunt expedition totalled over 400 people, including 362 porters, 20 Sherpa guides, and 10,000 lbs of baggage.<sup>[19][20]</sup> and like many such expeditions, was a team effort. Lowe supervised the preparation of the Lhotse Face, a huge and steep ice face, for climbing. Hillary forged a route through the treacherous Khumbu Icefall.<sup>[18]</sup>

The expedition set up base camp in March 1953 and, working slowly, set up its final camp at the South Col at 25,900 feet (7,890 m). On 26 May, Bourdillon and Evans attempted the climb but turned back when Evans' oxygen system failed. The pair had reached the South Summit, coming within 300 vertical feet (91 m) of the summit.<sup>[20][21]</sup> Hunt then directed Hillary and Tenzing to go for the summit.<sup>[21]</sup>



Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953

Snow and wind held the pair up at the South Col for two days. They set out on 28 May with a support trio of Lowe, Alfred Gregory, and Ang Nyima. The two pitched a tent at 27,900 feet (8,500 m) on 28 May, while their support group returned down the mountain. On the following morning Hillary discovered that his boots had frozen solid outside the tent. He spent two hours warming them before he and Tenzing, wearing 30-pound (14 kg) packs, attempted the final ascent.<sup>[18]</sup> The crucial move of the last part of the ascent was the 40-foot (12 m) rock face later named the "Hillary Step". Hillary saw a means to wedge his way up a crack in the face between the rock wall and the ice, and Tenzing followed.<sup>[22]</sup> From there the following effort was relatively simple. Hillary reported that both men reached the summit at the same time, but in *The Dream Comes True*, Tenzing said that Hillary had taken the first step atop Mount Everest. They reached Everest's 29,028 ft (8,848 m) summit, the highest point on earth, at 11:30 am.<sup>[1][23]</sup> As Hillary put it, "A few more whacks of the ice axe in the firm snow, and we stood on top."<sup>[24]</sup>

They spent only about 15 minutes at the summit. Hillary took the famous photo of Tenzing posing with his ice-axe, but Hillary's ascent went unrecorded. BBC News attributed this to Tenzing's having never used a camera,<sup>[25][26]</sup> but according to Tenzing's autobiography, *Man of Everest*, when Tenzing offered to take Hillary's photograph Hillary declined: "I motioned to Hillary that I would now take his picture. But for some reason he shook his head; he did not want it", Tenzing wrote. Tenzing left chocolates in the snow as an offering, and Hillary left a cross that he had been given by John Hunt.<sup>[18]</sup> Additional photos were taken looking down the mountain, to confirm that they had made it to the top and that the ascent was not faked.<sup>[26]</sup>

The two had to take care on the descent after discovering that drifting snow had covered their tracks, complicating the task of retracing their steps. The first person they met was Lowe, who had climbed up to bring them hot soup.

**EXTENSION: Create a fact file about Mount Everest.**



Some facts you could include:

Where is it?

What height is it?

How did it get its name?

What countries can be seen from the summit?

How old is it?